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RM/R

6262 R

FILE

APR 21 1961

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

In accordance with the agreement reached during the recent talks in Washington between Prime Minister Macmillan and President Kennedy, I am forwarding herewith a memorandum intended to institute a review of certain aspects of contingency planning on Berlin. I would suggest that the Embassy advise Assistant Secretary Kohler when you are ready to begin the bilateral discussions intended as preliminary to tripartite and eventually quadripartite talks on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

Ys/ Dean Rusk

Dean Rusk

Enclosure:

Memorandum.

S/S - RO

APR 21 1961

A true copy of signed original

Mrs Kennellony  
Sir Harold Gaccia, G.C.B.C., K.C.V.O.,  
British Ambassador,  
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by HFM DATE 12/21/40

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MEMORANDUM

RM/R

FILE

Among the points agreed as a result of the recent discussions between Prime Minister Macmillan and President Kennedy was that the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom and the United States Secretary of State would arrange for a fresh review to be made of contingency planning in respect to Berlin. The purpose of the review was to see if agreement could be reached on new instructions to the planners both to broaden the scope of their planning and to authorize training.

The two Heads of Government agreed that we must realistically anticipate the possibility of a severe Berlin crisis this year. They also agreed that the planning for such a crisis should be urgently and thoroughly carried forward with a view to the development of more precise courses of action to meet certain contingencies which might arise. It was likewise agreed that the loss of Berlin would entail the most serious consequences for the West and that it was highly important that the matter be brought to an issue with the Soviets at a point which could be defined with some precision and which would obtain public understanding. Specifically, this point should be persistent physical interference with military or civilian traffic to and from Berlin, whether by the East Germans or the Soviets. It was, therefore, consequent that a much greater state of Western readiness was required and that actual preparations for testing Soviet will, approved by Governments, should be further advanced.

In the light of these considerations, the United States would accordingly propose:

1. That the presently agreed surface access procedures intended to define the point beyond which the West will not go in accepting East German controls be reviewed to insure that, in effect, they do not confuse the basic issue and are, therefore, of such a nature as to receive maximum public understanding and support;

2. That the actions contemplated under the probe of Soviet intentions and the more elaborate military measures encompassed within the present LIVE OAK planning exercise in Paris be reviewed to establish their sufficiency and to arrive at governmental agreement thereto.

The United States does not regard the state of LIVE OAK planning as adequate, and believes that General Harwood should be authorized not only to carry forward this planning but also to make the necessary physical preparations for the actions contemplated and to conduct training. As was indicated during the discussions with the Prime Minister the United States will move ahead with maximum speed in making certain urgent studies with a view to providing a basis for decision.

SURGER:MJH:llb:brad:all  
4/18/61

MA Mr. Burdett

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6262

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TO: The Secretary

APR 19 1961

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: JHR - Fay D. Lehler

SUBJECT: Transmitting Letter and Enclosure to British Ambassador

Attached for your signature and dispatch is a letter to the  
to the British Ambassador, enclosing a memorandum on Berlin con-  
tingency planning, intended to institute the bilateral review of  
this subject agreed during the Macmillan visit.

Attachment:

Letter to British Ambassador  
with Enclosure

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FOR JHR OF Macmillan call  
1/18/61

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